

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 AID-10 IGA-01 NSC-10

NSCE-00 EB-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3101

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2414

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJ: STAFFING UNDP RES REP OFFICE

REF: (A) SANAA 2307

(B) STATE 240419

(C) USUN 5547 (STATE 244082)

1. WE WELCOME UNDP DECISION STRENGTHEN STAFF OF ITS OFFICE IN YAR. AT SAME TIME WE FEEL WE MUST CAVIL WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY UNDP REPS WHICH SMACK SOMEWHAT OF BUREAUCRATIC PUSILLANIMITY AND MISREPRESENT SITUATION HERE AS VIEWED BY SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE MISSIONS AS WELL AS YARG OFFICIALS PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, PRESSING FOR CHANGE NOW IN UNDP STRATEGY OF GIVING RES REP KOUWENHOVEN FUTTHUR OPPORTUNITY PROVE HIMSELF, DESPITE OUR CONCERN THAT UNDP/YE IS NOT PERFORMING WELL.

2. OUR ASSESSMENT OF KOUWENHOVEN REMAINS AS STATED PARA 1 REF (A). WHILE ANXIOUS CONVEY TO HIS SUPERIORS AN IMPRESSION OF CAREFULLY CONTROLLED COMPETENCE AND GLOSS OVER DEFICIENCIES AND EVEN VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITHIN HIS MISSION, KOUWENHOVEN
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HAS NOT BACKED THE QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS WHO WERE IN PLACE WHEN HE TOOK OVER 16 MONTHS AGO, MOST OKYIAM HAVE NOW LEFT. INDEED,

HE IS SELDOM AVAILABLE TO FIELD PERSONNEL. (THEY OFTER HAVE TO WAIT TWO MONTHS AFTER ARRIVAL FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM.) AS RESULT OF HIS MANAGERIAL INEPTITUDE, UNDP MORALE, AS NOTED, IS AT ROCK BOTTOM. THIS DESPITE PRESENT TWO COMPETENT ASST. RES REPS. MANY OF REMANING SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL ARE OPENLY SCORNFUL OF HIM IN PRESENCE DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGURES.

3. WHILE CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN IRYANI MAY HAVE BACKED OFF WITH ARAB POLITENESS WHEN CONFRONTED WITH UNDP POSITION THAT KOUWENHOVEN SHOULD REMAIN, WE KNOW THAT HE AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE SENIOR YARG OFFICIALS ARE VERY NEGATIVE TOWARD KOUWENHOVEN, WITNESS THE FACT THAT THEY REQUESTED HIS REMOVAL. THIS IS NOT, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT, A YEMENI HABIT. YARG HAS, IF ANYTHING, A SOMEWHAT NAIVELY OPTIMISTIC HOPEFULNESS REGARDING ABILITY OF UNDP TO PRODUCE EFFECTIVE RESULTS. THIS DERIVES IN PART FROM ITS VERY GOOD EXPERIENCE WITH WORLD BANK/IDA. WHILE IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES, IT HAS DEMONSTATED AN ABILITY, RARE IN SO UNDERDEVELOPED A COUNTRY, TO WORK FAST AND EFFECTIVELY WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE MISSIONS. THE EXPERIENCE OF USAID IS A CASE IN POINT. ONE OF KOUWENHOVEN'S PROBLEMS IS THAT HE HAS NOT DEVELOPED A PATTEN OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH YARG SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO GET DECISIONS SURING IRYANI'S FREQUENT ABSENCES. UNDP IS FAR MORE A BURDEN ON CPO THAN VICE-VERSA.

4. ANOTHER IMPORTANT FAILING OF PRESENT RES REP, IN OUR VIEW, HAS BEEN HIS UNWILLINGNESS PROJECT UNDP AS A COORDINATOR CUM CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING BILATERAL PROGRAMS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION AND MAKE YARG'S OWN COORDINATING EFFORTS EASIER. WE AND OTHER HAVE URGED HIM MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION AND PROMISED FULL SUPPORT BUT SO FAR WITHOUT RESULT EVEN IN SUCH AN UNDRAMATIC AND EASY FIRST STEP AS ENCOURAGING PERIODIC SOCIAL MEETINGS AT WHICH PRINCIPALS OF MAIN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GROUPS COULD COMPARE NOTES.

5. IN INTEREST OF THE KIND OF EFFECTIVE UNDP PROGRAM WHICH IT ISUSG POLICY TO SUPPORT, EMBASSY AND USAID WILL CONTINUE MONITOR UNDP OPERATION AND WILL REPORT FURTHERIF IT CONTINUES SLIDE DESPITE PROPOSED STAFF ADDITONS.

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